

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny. Windy and warmer.
 Tonight: Showers and storms in the late evening and overnight. Some storms could be severe.



HIGH: 78 LOW: 61



Carmel continues cutting costs across city accounts

The REPORTER

Findings from a detailed financial and legal review initiated to ensure appropriate use of taxpayer dollars were discussed at Wednesday night's Affiliate Review Committee meeting.

While the full fiscal and legal review prompted in partnership with Mayor Sue Finkam and the Carmel City Council includes four nonprofit affiliates, the meeting focused on the operation of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, Inc. (CCI).

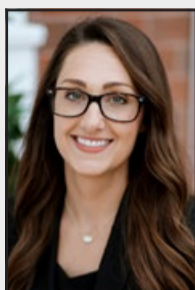
Opening remarks at the meeting emphasized the best-in-class nature of the event and its programming. Founded in

2017, the market has received multiple rankings as the nation's best holiday market by *USA Today*.

The Affiliate Review Committee follows work prompted by Mayor Finkam in October 2024, when she restructured the nonprofit board, aiming to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure fiscal accountability. The changes included requiring the



Finkam



Augustus

The city also protected the market's trademarks and related intellectual property.

To date, the efforts have resulted in the city being reimbursed for expenses for the first time in market history – \$284,000 in 2025.

At Wednesday's meeting, committee members heard findings that were informed by detailed analysis including the review of hundreds of pages of documents submitted by market leadership. The review focused on the governance structure, fiscal matters, and executive compensation, risks, and historical review of taxpayer investment. The committee discussed opportunities to increase transparency to the taxpayers and develop best practices pertaining to governance and financial reporting.

See *Cut Costs* . . . Page 2

Keeping my sense of humor

Middle age is such a strange time. I've written columns before about random aches and pains that happen out of nowhere. You know, the ones that come on for absolutely no reason you can think of.

But what about huge, distinct "eye floaters" that appear suddenly for no reason? Those are what hit me a week ago.

My husband John and I were enjoying a delightful date night last Friday. We were laughing and joking as we entered The Fashion Mall at Keystone to go see a movie. Once we got inside, I froze. I thought I was starting to have a migraine, which for me typically starts with an aura in my vision.

John asked me what was wrong, and I replied, "I thought I was starting to get a migraine . . . but it's not an aura . . . it looks like a new eye floater."

Eye floaters are common – they're spots in your vision. In fact, I've had them since I was a little kid. To me, they usually look like bubbles strung together in various shapes. They come and go and are never the same.

This floater, however, was bizarre – it was large, distinct, and looked like . . . an upside-down sperm with a black dot in the middle. Cue the jokes. It was also just in my left eye.

Unlike my strings of bubbles, this sucker stayed in the same place and did not go away. I began to freak out, especially after a few stings of bubbles decided to join it. I even asked our friends from Our Gang on Saturday if they had ever experienced something like this. Half of the group nodded in understanding, the other half said, "What are eye floaters?" Sigh.

By Monday evening, I decided to get my eyes checked. I noticed that my vision was a bit hazy out of my left eye and that it hurt slightly when I woke up in the morning. I wondered if I had a retinal tear and if I would need laser surgery.

See *Humor* . . . Page 2

Water & sewer rates set for new utility district near Bakers Corner

County officials clarify which residents must hook up & when

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Regional Utility District Board of Trustees recently set rates for the new water and sewer district near Bakers Corner. The \$45 million project will extend sewer and water utilities east and west of U.S. 31 between 236th and 276th streets once its complete.

The approved rates are as follows:

- Residential Sewer Base Rate: \$45.23 per month
- Sewer Usage Rate: \$4.95 per 1,000 gallons
- Water Base Rate (5/8-inch meter): \$24.36 per month
- Water Usage Rate: \$4.06 per 1,000 gallons

To illustrate what residents can expect, a graphic is included that outlines three common billing scenarios for a single-family home.

- **Scenario 1:** Connected to sewer, not connected to water.
- **Scenario 2:** Connected to water and sewer, 5/8-inch meter using 4,000 gallons per month
- **Scenario 3:** Connected to water and sewer, 5/8-inch meter using 7,000 gallons per month

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Water Base Rate	\$0.00	\$24.36	\$24.36
Water Usage (\$4.06/1,000 gal)	\$0.00	\$16.24	\$28.42
Public Fire Protection Fee	\$0.00	\$4.59	\$4.59
State Tax on Water	\$0.00	\$2.84	\$3.69
Total Water Charge	\$0.00	\$48.03	\$61.06
Sewer Base Rate	\$0.00	\$45.23	\$45.23
Sewer Usage (\$4.95/1,000 gal)	\$0.00	\$19.80	\$34.65
Sewer Flat Rate	\$74.93	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Sewer Charge	\$74.93	\$65.03	\$79.88
Total Monthly Charge	\$74.93	\$113.06	\$140.94

Graphic provided by Hamilton County Government

Here are three common billing situations for the new Bakers Corner Utility District.

water and sewer, 5/8-inch meter using 7,000 gallons per month

"We want to be as transparent as we can so residents can plan ahead," said Hamilton County Commissioner and

HCRUD board member Mark Heirbrandt. "We want the community to understand the real costs, know what to expect, and most importantly, know their options."

To that end, the board would like to address several rumors and misinformation circulating among residents in the area.

See *Rates* . . . Page 2

Wiegman named February Husky Hero

The REPORTER

Caty Wiegman, Hamilton Heights High School registrar, has been named the Husky Hero for the month of February.

Wiegman, who has been a familiar face at Heights for about a decade before moving into her role as registrar, has proven to be an invaluable source of clerical support to the high school counseling office. While she maintains a full plate of establishing and maintaining student's academic records, compiling and distributing materials and reports, and responding to inquiries from a variety of internal and external sources, she still finds time to hold additional roles and responsibilities that have made a difference that can be seen and felt throughout the building.

Wiegman was recommended for the honor by the high school counseling department, which wrote:

"Caty is our school registrar and if that isn't enough work, she is also the Freshman Spon-



Photo provided

Caty Wiegman, Hamilton Heights High School Registrar, was selected as the Husky Hero for the month of February. (From left) Melissa Martin (HHEF President/HHSC Technology Integration), Mitch Street (HHHS Assistant Principal), Craig Bowen (FC Tucker), Laken Bowen, Amber Bowen, Caty Wiegman (HHHS Guidance Office/Registrar), Celeste Wiegman (HHEF member and daughter), and Whitney Gray (HHHS Principal).

sor, helps with athletics, and has recently started a Social Committee to help create a positive and rewarding experience for

all of our staff. This has also helped strengthen the community in our building. In December, Caty set up various activities

and prizes/treats for the staff at HHHS. The majority of all

See *Wiegman* . . . Page 2



Photo provided

The new Carmel branch is located at 175 S. Range Line Road.

First Farmers Bank & Trust to open branch expansion in Carmel

The REPORTER

First Farmers Bank & Trust, one of the top 15 largest Indiana chartered banks, announces the grand opening of its newest location in Carmel. This office will be the bank's 38th location across Indiana and eastern Illinois.

The grand opening of the new office is set for Thursday, May 1. The new branch will be located in the heart of Midtown Carmel at 175 S. Range Line Road. This 3,300 square-foot office will be next to the upscale restaurant, 1933 Lounge, which opened April 1. This site offers enhanced visibility as well as the opportunity to engage with local businesses and the broader community.

See *First Farmers* . . . Page 2

Poker for Sight Tournament

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HUMOR

from Page 1

I saw Dr. Abby at My-EyeDr in Noblesville on Wednesday, and she put my fears to rest. Thankfully, I have a simple, common, broken blood vessel. And my new floaters will stick around but eventually get lower in my vision and I won't notice them as much. Dr. Abby was glad that I came in, as near-sighted people like me are more prone to retinal tears and detachments.

She said I'd get used to it and that people often nickname their floaters to deal with them. I have given it a nickname to lighten things up a bit, but you don't want to know what it is. You could say that I'm keeping my sense of ... humor. I'll give you a little bit of time to figure out why that's funny, or why I think that's funny.

I was so relieved that I went to see Dr. Abby – who,

by the way, is my favorite eye doctor ever. On a serious note – our eyes are so precious. It was wise for me to be cautious and get checked out. Readers, don't hesitate to see your eye doctor if something you've never experienced before happens with your vision.

Still not sure about why I think keeping my sense of humor for this situation is funny? Humor is also a term for vitreous and aqueous fluid in the eye.

Yes, I'm a nerd.

I'll continue to hold onto both types of humor in the months to come. Thank you, Dr. Abby, for your kindness, help, and yes, laughter!

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

New behavioral health hospital set to open in Westfield in 2027

By DAKARAI TURNER
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Community Health Network and Lifepoint Behavioral Health have announced the planned location for one of two new behavioral health hospitals in central Indiana under their partnership.

The 120-bed, single-story facility will be located in Westfield, across from Community Health Network's new healthcare campus. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, with an anticipated opening in 2027.

The hospital is part of a joint venture announced

in February between Community Health Network and Lifepoint Behavioral Health, a business unit of Lifepoint Health. The partnership aims to address the region's growing demand for behavioral healthcare services by expanding access to both inpatient and outpatient care.

"We know behavioral health services are important to the residents of Westfield and Hamilton County," said Jason Fahrlander, Community Health Network chief operating officer. "Community is proud to expand access to care through innovative partnerships that address the growing needs

of our communities."

Once complete, Lifepoint Behavioral Health will manage day-to-day operations of the Westfield hospital, integrating it into the existing Community Fairbanks Behavioral Health continuum of care.

"Expanding access to patient-centered specialty care is the foundation of our work with Community Health Network," said Russ Bailey, president of Lifepoint Behavioral Health. "This new hospital in Westfield will meaningfully extend and strengthen behavioral health services for those we serve in Marion and Hamilton counties."

The announcement follows a recent Community Mental Health Needs Assessment for Marion County, conducted by the Center for Health Policy at Indiana University, which found that two-thirds of residents needing treatment for serious mental illness did not receive it.

The new hospitals are expected to increase the total number of behavioral health beds in the network and provide more dedicated treatment spaces for individuals with complex needs.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/westfield-indiana-behavioral-health.

FIRST FARMERS

from Page 1

"This expansion into Carmel will enhance our ability to engage directly with our customers in Hamilton County," said Matt Maher, Hamilton County Regional President at First Farmers Bank & Trust. "We are eager to collaborate with and support the Carmel community for many years ahead."

The Carmel office will provide comprehensive bank services, encompassing lending, credit solutions, portfolio management, treasury management, mortgage banking, wealth management, and retail banking. The team of this branch will include several longtime employees that live to serve their communities by help-

ing them grow. The team of the Carmel branch leadership include:

- Matt Maher, Hamilton County Regional President
 - Doug Hill, Vice President, Senior Commercial Lender
 - Alice Rexing, Vice President, Commercial Loan Portfolio Manager
 - Tim Haak, Vice President, Business Development Officer
 - Greta Notz, Treasury Management Officer
 - Trevor Loe, Business Development/Branch Manager II
 - Jessica Jeffries, Regional Branch Manager
- To learn more about First Farmers Bank & Trust, visit ffb.com.

CUT COSTS

As a result of the review, the city encouraged market leadership to take multiple steps, including developing a long-term growth strategy to expand on its proven success, review staffing and compensation levels, and initiate surveys related to vendor, visitor, and volunteer experience.

"The Carmel Christkindlmarkt is a treasured event and the steps we

have taken as part of this review will ensure it remains an enduring tradition for our community," Mayor Finkam said. "Already we have delivered significant relief to taxpayers and will ensure that progress continues as part of the remaining work before us. I am pleased that the council, my administration and the CCI board continue to be unified in the efforts to put appropriate controls in

place to protect taxpayers."

"Our board has worked productively and collaboratively with the City, and we remain committed to open dialogue and the shared vision of maintaining a festive, family-friendly event that brings joy to both residents and visitors," CCI Board Chair Maddie Augustus said. "As part of that commitment, we understand the importance of working toward long-term

self-sustainability, and we are actively exploring ways to enhance revenue opportunities, improve operational efficiencies, and ensure that the Christkindlmarkt remains a vibrant, financially responsible asset for the community."

The Affiliate Review Committee will continue its work with analysis of the Carmel City Center Community Development Corporation.

from Page 1

RATES

"Just because your home is in the Utility District does not mean you must connect," Heirbrandt added. "Connection is only required under specific conditions."

Residents are required to connect to the sanitary sewer system if:

- A sewer main was installed adjacent to their property,
- They have received an official notification from the district that sewer is available, and

• Their home is within 300 feet of the sewer main.

Homeowners who don't meet all three of these conditions are not required to connect. Those who are required to connect can choose to connect to the system or apply for a sewer connection exemption through the Hamilton County Health Department. Ex-



Heirbrandt

emptions are granted for 10 years, with two possible five-year renewals (up to 20 years total), provided their septic system is functioning properly.

NO ONE is required to connect to public water and those who do connect may continue using their wells for irrigation, livestock, and other outdoor uses – as

long as the well system is disconnected from the home's indoor plumbing to avoid cross-connection.

For more information about connection requirements, exemption procedures, and detailed rate breakdowns, visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov or contact the Hamilton County Regional Utility District General Manager C.J. Taylor at cj.taylor@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or by calling (317) 776-1517.

from Page 1

WIEGMAN

of this was paid for out of Caty's own pocket. I believe she needs to be recognized for her hard work in helping each staff member feel seen and heard and appreciated."

Wiegman said students' potential and care of school staff is what inspires her.

"Receiving the Husky Hero award is a deeply appreciated honor, affirming the value of my daily contributions," Wiegman said. "My goal is to be a con-

stant source of support and encouragement for both students and colleagues. Witnessing the immense potential of our students and the unwavering care of our staff fills me with inspiration. If I can uplift a colleague or student, I consider that day a success. I'm incredibly grateful for this recognition and am committed to continuing to positively impact our students, support my team,

and serve our community, always striving for excellence."

Hamilton Heights High School Principal Whitney Gray said, "Caty goes above and beyond in every way. She is constantly looking for ways to help behind the scenes that no one even sees. She has a positive attitude and a willingness to jump in however needed. We are better because of Caty."

Do you know Husky Hero? Nomination forms and information about this special recognition program for Hamilton Heights employees are available at bit.ly/hhschuskyhero. The Husky Hero Recognition program is made possible through the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation in partnership with Craig and Amber Bowen (FC Tucker). #hhedfoundation

from Page 1



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Indiana's guardians of the grid

Duke Energy celebrates National Lineworker Appreciation Day

The REPORTER

Today, April 18, Duke Energy celebrates National Lineworker Appreciation Day – a day to recognize the service, commitment, and sacrifices of lineworkers, team members who are critical to ensuring customers have access to safe and reliable electricity.

Lineworkers provide an invaluable service to communities. Among the first to respond after storms to help ensure public safety, they frequently work in challenging conditions including extreme weather and heights to restore power and keep the lights on.

Lineworkers support the growth of industries and businesses in Duke Energy's service areas in Indiana by helping build and expand power infrastructure. Line technicians install new power lines, transformers and other equipment to reliably accommodate growth. This work is increasingly important as communities continue to grow and new and existing businesses expand.

By the numbers

In Indiana, lineworkers recently restored power to **nearly 100,000 customers** affected by storms and

flooding during the first week of April.

In total, more than 10,000 Duke Energy and contract lineworkers, including substation and relay technicians, make up Duke Energy's lineworker team in the Carolinas, Florida, and Midwest. Substation technicians manage energy distribution at substations, while relay technicians test electrical equipment to ensure reliable power distribution.

Since 2020, the Duke Energy Foundation has committed more than \$3.3 million in grant funding to support lineworker programs and participants across its service territories.

A fast-growing occupation

The demand for lineworkers continues to grow as Duke Energy engages in more grid and infrastructure improvement projects. The company works with and recruits from 22 **community college** lineworker training programs throughout its service areas that have lineworker training programs.

"Our customers live and work in some of the most vibrant, fastest-growing areas of the country," said Scott Batson, senior vice president and chief power grid



Photo provided by Duke Energy Indiana

According to Chase Nickell, a journeyman lineworker with Duke Energy Indiana, "It's a rewarding job and a purposeful job when you can get the lights back on for customers. My kids don't always want me to leave, but when people are out of power, they understand, and they are proud of their dad."

officer for Duke Energy. "Duke Energy can efficiently meet current and future energy needs in large part

due to our trusted line teams' commitment to safety and excellence, and we value their work immensely."

Community News

Community Pork Loin Dinner

Sponsored by Sheridan Lions Club and Phi Beta Psi Sorority

When: Saturday, April 26, 4 to 7 p.m.

Where: Sheridan Elementary Cafeteria (parking in back of building)

Cost: Adults \$12, Kids 12 & under \$7, kids under 3 eat free

Menu: pork loin, hashbrown casserole, green beans, slaw, applesauce, cornbread & butter, and homemade desserts

Proceeds go toward community support and cancer research

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Noblesville man killed in head-on crash

The REPORTER

At approximately 8:36 p.m. Wednesday, Noblesville police officers responded to the area of 146th Street and Promise Road in reference to a report of a crash involving two vehicles. Officers arrived on the scene a short time later and began to investigate.

Based on preliminary information from witness statements and evidence at the scene, it appears that a 2007 Chevy Silverado pickup truck was traveling westbound on 146th Street from Marilyn Road when it suddenly crossed over the center curbed median and into the eastbound lanes of 146th Street, colliding head-on with a 2018 GMC Acadia traveling eastbound from Promise Road.

The driver of the Chevy Silverado was identified as Nicholas E. McKnight, 38, Noblesville, and pronounced deceased at the

scene. There were no other passengers in the vehicle.

The driver of the GMC Acadia was identified as Jordan A. Hill, 29, Anderson. Passengers in the vehicle were identified as Hailey B. Hill, 29, and Aubrey Hill, 1, both of Anderson. All three occupants were transported by ground ambulance to Ascension St. Vincent Hospital (Indianapolis) with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Noblesville Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit was summoned to the scene to investigate the crash and to collect evidence at the scene.

Both eastbound and westbound lanes of 146th Street between Marilyn and Promise roads were closed during the crash investigation. Both lanes of 146th Street were reopened at 12:50 a.m.

This remains an ongoing investigation.

Coroner identifies driver killed in Westfield collision

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Coroner Jeff Jellison has identified the man who died in a motor vehicle accident that occurred in Westfield on Wednesday, April 17 as Samuel Aaron Riggs, 55, Atlanta.

The accident occurred on U.S. 31 north of 161st Street.

The Hamilton County Coroner's Office was assisted in the investigation into the identification by the Westfield and Fishers police departments.

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MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
BOOK & LYRICS BY DON BLACK & CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON
APRIL 24 - MAY 10

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From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 148

With fewer than 30 instructional days left, we are in the home stretch of the 2025-26 school year. As we wind down our school year, Whitney Gray and Mitch Street are moving full-steam ahead in their new roles as our high school principal and assistant principal.

Together, Gray and Street, who began their careers at Heights just one year apart, represent an integral part of the high school administrative team that included the late Jarrod Mason, whom we lost unexpectedly in November. They bring a combined 33 years of experience, share a unified vision, a collaborative leadership approach, and an unwavering dedication to helping students and teachers reach their full potential. They are poised to guide the school toward new heights of success, honoring the legacy that Jarrod left behind. We are truly fortunate to have this caliber of leadership, dedication, and experience at



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

the helm of the high school.

This month, I'm proud to recognize and celebrate several of our outstanding staff members who play an invaluable role for our district. I want to give a well-deserved shoutout to our team of bus drivers and aides – we consider them champions of safety and care in our community.

These dedicated professionals are the first friendly faces our students see in the morning and the last ones they see in the afternoon, creating a positive start and end to each school day. With unmatched commitment, they navigate every journey with precision and heart, ensuring the safety and well-being of our students to and from school, field trips, and events. Their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication make a lasting impact on our schools and families.

Thank you for being the trusted stewards of our children's daily journeys – we appreciate you on Bus Driv-

er Appreciation Day (April 22) and every day!

Another invaluable group working in our district are our administrative professionals. They are the backbone of our operations, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently behind the scenes. Their exceptional organization, attention to detail, and unwavering commitment to excellence provide vital support to our students, families, and staff.

These dedicated individuals go above and beyond to create a welcoming and positive environment, setting the tone for success throughout our district. We are deeply grateful for their hard work and the countless contributions they make on their special recognition day (April 23) and every day.

Thank you for your incredible efforts – you are truly indispensable to our school community!

April is also National School Library Month, and we're shining a spotlight on our library media specialists – Lori Hippensteel (HHHS), Lexi Donald (HHMS), and Karen Jones (HHES).

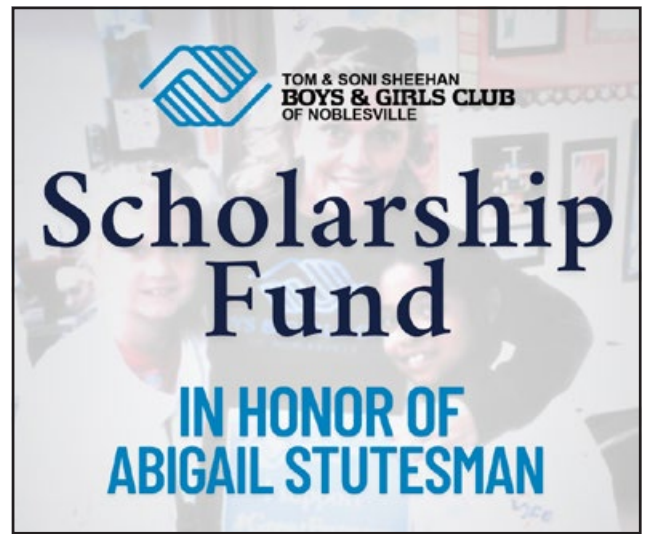
These educators do so much more than manage our libraries – they help students navigate research, build essential digital literacy skills, and collaborate with teachers to enhance learning across every subject. They really help bring our schools to life. We appreciate you!

Speaking of recognitions, HHMS was among the 190 schools in 29 states to earn the prestigious Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). This national recognition highlights the school's commitment to providing a data-driven, comprehensive school counseling program that supports student success.

It reflects the dedication of the school's counseling team, administration, and community in fostering an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Congratulations!

Thank you for your partnership, participation, and continued commitment to our schools.

#WeAreHuskies



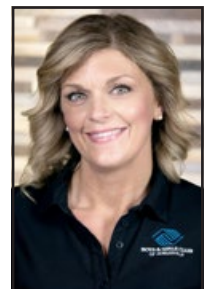
Graphic provided by Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville

BGCN launches \$10,000 scholarship matching opportunity

Abigail Stutesman honored for 25 years of service

The REPORTER

The Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Scholarship in honor of Abigail Stutesman has been established to recognize her long standing commitment, exceptional leadership, and unwavering dedication to the Club.



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

Join the Club in recognizing Stutesman's outstanding leadership and impact on local youth by making a contribution of any size to the scholarship fund at [this link](#).

About the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville

The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville (BGCN) provides high-quality, low-cost programs for youth members with the help of donors and sponsors. Between the Club, the Community Center and Camp Crosser, BGCN provides opportunities for members to enjoy activities and experiences that help shape character and offer new perspectives. BGCN is dedicated to inspiring and enabling all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens by promoting leadership, character, health, and physical development.

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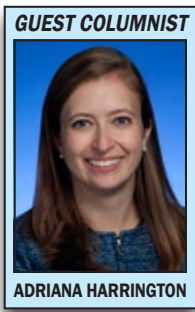
Westfield Branch

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Member FDIC

Indiana just became a national leader in college access. Here's why that matters.

Indiana has long been a trailblazer in giving students more control over their education — whether through robust school choice, innovative career and technical training,



GUEST COLUMNIST
ADRIANA HARRINGTON

or a growing portfolio of scholarship programs.

Now, the state is poised to lead once again with a new approach to college and career access.

Gov. Mike Braun recently announced a groundbreaking initiative that will connect students who graduate with the honors plus diploma for enrollment, enlistment or employment with tremendous opportunities. The announcement is the result of years of work by lawmakers and Secretary of Education Katie Jenner to take Indiana's high school experience to the next level.

Depending which honors plus diploma students pursue, they will gain admission to Indiana's public colleges and universities, earn college credit and access mentoring and priority job placement programs in the Indiana National Guard, or connect with career support through Ascend Indiana, including interviews with top employers.

This is more than a headline — it's the most comprehensive diploma redesign in the country, and it has the potential to transform outcomes for thousands of Hoosier students. The new policy doesn't hand out a free pass; it rewards students who've done the work.

Let's dig into the enrollment incentive. By tying guaranteed college admission to the completion of the enrollment honors plus diploma, the state is sending a powerful message: if you meet the bar, the door to opportunity will be open. No complicated applications, no hidden requirements — just a clear path forward.

That clarity matters. For many students — especially those who are the first

in their families to go to college — navigating the transition from high school to higher education can feel like learning a new language. Indiana's new policy cuts through that confusion and replaces it with certainty and momentum.

Critics have argued that automatic college admission lowers standards. Indiana's approach does the opposite. The new high school redesign diploma is intentionally designed to be rigorous and aligned to postsecondary expectations. It requires students to take advanced coursework and demonstrate readiness — academically and otherwise — for the demands of college.

The initiative doesn't stop with college-bound students; it recognizes that success looks different for every student. Under the new plan, Indiana graduates pursuing careers or military service will benefit from automatic connections to renowned employers or enlistment opportunities. Whether a student's next step is a high-demand job, an apprenticeship or service in the Armed Forces, the state is committed to making that transition just as seamless.

It's a powerful, student-centered approach that builds on a strong foundation.

The state's Next Level Programs of Study and the Indiana GPS framework give students earlier and better-aligned exposure to career and college pathways. Career Scholarship Accounts give high school students access to \$5,000 to pursue apprenticeships, career training or credentialing aligned to high-wage, high-demand fields. And Indiana families benefit from one of the most comprehensive school choice landscapes in the nation — ensuring students can find the learning environment that's right for them.

See Access . . . Page 6

Carmel announces inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival

The REPORTER

The City of Carmel will hold its first-ever Cherry Blossom Festival at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 4.

The festival will be held at the Japanese Garden on the grounds of Carmel City Hall in partnership with Carmel Sister Cities, Inc., offering a vibrant celebration of Japanese culture while recognizing Carmel's sister city relationship with Kawachinagano, Japan.

This event is free and open to the public; festival attendees will have the chance to experience activities for all ages including traditional Japanese arts such as calligraphy and origami, kimono try-ons, traditional drumming, and more. Guests will also enjoy an assortment of authentic Japanese cuisine from a variety of local food vendors.

The Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the significant milestone of Carmel's first sister city designation, which officially took place in 1994. As Carmel celebrates the past 30 years of the partnership, the event underscores the deep and lasting friendship between the two cities. The festival will also serve as an opportunity to rededicate the Kawachinagano Japanese Garden at Carmel City Hall, a serene space completed in 2009 as part of the 15th anniversary of the sister city recognition. While the garden renovations will not yet be complete, renderings of the finished construction will be available to view at the event.

The expansion of the Japanese Garden is a partnership between the city and Clay Township. The city funded the beginning phases of the project, including property acquisition and the initial construction of the lower pond, with the township funding the revitalization of the upper pond and the beginning portions of the lower pond landscaping.

"We are incredibly proud of our long-standing relationship with Kawachinagano," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "This inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival



Photo provided by City of Carmel

Traditional Japanese gate at the Japanese Garden, Carmel City Hall.

is a wonderful way to honor this special bond, celebrate Japanese culture within our community and welcome our friends from across the globe. The rededication of the Japanese Garden further signifies the beauty and importance of this connection."

The original Japanese Garden was made possible in part by a generous gift from the City of Kawachinagano, as well as funding from Clay Township and the Carmel Redevelopment Commission. The garden includes a traditional Japanese gate in

between the cherry blossom trees. This festival builds upon the spirit of cultural exchange that was highlighted during the 2009 celebration and the subsequent Japanese cultural exposition, Kawachinagano Day.

Read about Carmel's Sister City, Kawachinagano, Japan, at [this link](#).

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NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS

Board Highlights

April 15, 2025 Meeting

Submitted by Noblesville Schools

The school board has responsibility for major district functions including school district governance and oversight, setting school policies, approving funding, strategic planning, and hiring and evaluating the superintendent.

- Nursing staff, NPD resource officers, and a community member were recognized by the board for life-saving action and support they provided recently when a visitor at an NHS event experienced a traumatic medical emergency.
- Music students representing orchestra, percussion, and color guard were honored for state and national achievements.
- White River Elementary staff and students presented on their art, music, technology, and physical education programming.
- Assistant Superintendent of Learning Dr. Ryan Rich presented on Academic Excellence as part of a new series of monthly reports on the Noblesville Schools Strategic Plan.
- A second hearing was held for a \$19.7 million bond that will fund several facility projects throughout the district including paving, painting, roofing, flooring, technology, bus replacements, furniture, and the completion of air handling units at NHS. The bond will not increase the tax rate.
- A contract for NHS air handling units was approved, as was an agreement between the district and Noblesville Youth Baseball.
- Updated/new school calendars were approved for 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028.
- The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees recently developed and signed a [shared commitments document](#) to establish clear expectations and respectful collaboration among board members.

Go to noblesvilleschools.org/leadership/school-board for meeting agendas, minutes, videos, and more.

ON-LINE ONLY

PERSONAL PROPERTY PUBLIC AUCTION

INCLUDING Gerald & Pamela Shuck Thompson, Mathews, Coins, Toys, Golf Carts & More

BIDDING OPENS: Thursday, April 3rd @ Noon
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, April 19th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DATES: Thursday, April 17th from Noon - 6pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, April 21st Noon - 6pm
Tuesday, April 22nd Noon - 6pm

Coins, Morgan Dollars, Silver Certificates; Proof Sets, Arrowheads; Vtg. Prison Locks, Padlocks; Advertising & Road Signs; Thermometers, Oil Lamps; St. Clair, Joe Rice, Fenton; Gibson, Prestige & More; Hull Pottery, Jadeite, Crocks; Nesting Hen Collection; Salt & Pepper Shakers; Sterling Silver & Costume Jewelry; Marbles, Cast Iron, Lightning Rods; Antiques & Uniques; Toys & Pet Supplies; Household & Furniture; Curio Cabinets; Antique Furniture; 6' Lifetime Tables; Electric Dryer, Lift Chair; Wrought Iron & Wicker Patio Furniture; Lots More Good Stuff!
Atlanta Indiana Post Office; Mail Sorter Desk; 1963 Coca-Cola Machine; Sports Trading Cards; Die-Cast Farm Toys, Cars & Trucks; Nascar & Hot Wheels; Cast Iron Railroad Crossing Sign; Char-Broil 6-Burner Gas Grill; Land Honor H-D Plate Compactor (New); Push Mowers, Yard Sprayers; Lawn Equipment & Tools; 1994 White LT 16 Riding Mower; Metal Shelving Units; Cement Mixer, Rolling Tool Chests; Stihl Chainsaw, McCullough Tree Saw; Sandblasting Cabinet; Hand Tools, Power Tools; Scaffolding, Drywall Lift; Work Benches, More!
2006 4 Wheel Drive Hummer H3; 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo; w/ Hydraulic Soil Probe; 2012 Polaris Sportsman 550 4-Wheeler; Honda 110 3-Wheeler; 1942 FarmAll H Tractor; 2018 EZGO TXT48 Electric Golf Carts

To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:
Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com

Absentee Bidding is still Available
PREVIEW - PICKUP & PAY AT
Cripe's Auction Service, 3247 E. State Road 28, Tipton, IN
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Behold the bunny Cicero citizens saw last Saturday



Cicero Friends of the Park held the third annual Spring Marketplace last Saturday, April 12 at Red Bridge Park. Kids of all ages were able to meet the Easter Bunny and then hunt for eggs. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible.

Photos provided



Photo provided

Hopebridge Founder Kim Strunk was awarded an IBJ 2022 Healthcare Hero award in the category of Community Achievement in Health Care.

Hopebridge Founder Kim Strunk to speak at April Coffee Connections

The REPORTER

Westfield Chamber of Commerce will welcome Kim Strunk, Founder of Hopebridge, as the April Coffee Connections speaker from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, April 24 at The Bridgewater Club.

Strunk will discuss her background, the importance of inclusion, and the positive impact of hiring employees with disabilities in our community.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and the Westfield community is filled with many organizations that encourage inclusion in and outside of the workplace. The Chamber is honored to partner and work closely with Invest Hamilton County and Westfield Mayor's Council on Disabilities to help create and support opportunities for neurodiverse individuals.

Click here to register.

About Kim Strunk and Hopebridge

The story of Hopebridge began in 2005, driven by a passionate occupational therapist – Kim Strunk. While working closely with children in her community, she recognized a critical gap in essential pediatric services for the autism com-

munity, especially for those transitioning from early intervention programs to prepare for school.

Determined to change this, Strunk pioneered an integrated, evidence-based approach rooted in applied behavior analysis (ABA). She founded the first center – originally named Homefront Learning Center in Kokomo – one of the first of its kind in Indiana.

At a time when ABA therapy lacked insurance coverage and widespread recognition, her commitment to serving children and families laid the foundation for what is now Hopebridge Autism Therapy Centers. Hopebridge was born to bridge the gap in autism care and create better opportunities and outcomes for children and their families.

Twenty years later, with more than 100 centers spanning across 12 states, Hopebridge serves nearly 5,000 patients with autism every day. Strunk was awarded an IBJ 2022 Healthcare Hero award in the category of Community Achievement in Health Care, and is steadfast in her commitment as Head of Clinical Strategy to advance the clinical quality of autism therapy.

ACCESS

Together, these initiatives reflect a clear vision: education in Indiana should be a launchpad, not a maze.

This policy is good for Indiana's future. With a shrinking workforce and rising demand for skilled professionals, Indiana needs more students to complete high-quality postsecond-

ary credentials – whether in college, career training or a combination of both. By helping students maintain momentum after high school, this approach ensures talent doesn't fall through the cracks.

The potential impact is significant. According to the Indiana Commission for

Higher Education, only 53 percent of Indiana high school graduates go straight to college and in 2021 only 5.5 percent of grade 12 students earned a high-quality college and career credential. But research shows that many more are capable. This policy gives student the nudge they need take the next step.

from Page 5
Governor Braun's proposal is a win for students, a win for families and a win for Indiana's economy. It sends the message that if you work hard and meet clear expectations, the state has your back. Adriana Harrington is the Managing Director of Policy for ExcelinEd, a national education nonprofit.

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Kiwanis CLUB OF FISHERS presents

9000 EGGS!

EGG HUNT

The much-anticipated **Annual Egg Hunt** is back, bringing joy and excitement to families in the Fishers community!

Get your picture with the Easter Bunny! • Free & open to the public!
9000 eggs across 4 baseball fields! • For ages toddler to 12 years old!
Bring your own easter basket!

Saturday, April 19, 2025
10:00 AM at Roy G. Holland Memorial Park
1 Park Dr, Fishers, IN 46038

For more information, please contact Kiwaniscluboffishers3@gmail.com or visit us at [@kiwaniscluboffishers](https://www.instagram.com/kiwaniscluboffishers) on Instagram and Facebook.

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Daily Local News THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Hamilton County Veterans Community Page

Hamilton County Veteran Community Page Survey

We need your help to improve your Hamilton County Veteran Community Page in the Hamilton County Reporter Newspaper. We wish to keep our Military Veteran community informed on what is going on so you all may stay connected and get the assistance you need to live a more fulfilled life here in Hamilton County. Please go to the following link to help us by answering the questions you see below. We appreciate you taking the time to help us make this the most informative page possible for our Service Members, Veterans, their families and caregivers! Please click here or scan the QR Code to take the survey – tinyurl.com/VeteransPageSurvey



1. Are you an active Service member, Veteran, family member of or a caregiver for a Service Member or Veteran?
2. What do you like about the Veteran community page?
3. What else would you like to see on this Veteran Community page?

Thank you in advance for your help in making this page YOUR page

Hamilton County Veteran Service Organizations

American Legion Posts

Carmel Post 155 Kim Kilburn
852 West Main St Breakfast Sat & Sun 8-12
Carmel, In 46032 Treasure Hunt Fri 7p
317-846-0001 Tx Holdem Thurs & Sat
M,Tu 3-10pm, W,Th 10a-10p, F 10a-11a, Sa 8a-11p,
Su 8a-8p.

Restaurant –Sa 8a-8p, Su 8a-12p Lunch W-F 11a-2p, Dinner W-F 5-8p

Cicero Post 341 Tye Anderson
50 Washington Ave Treasure Hunt Tues 7p
Cicero, In 46034 Weekly Draw Su 6p,W 7p
317-984-4441 Bingo Fri 6p, Weekly Draw 8p
M-Th 3-10p, F-Sa 12-11p, Su 12-10p.

Restaurant Tu, W, F 4-8pm, Public P/U Tu-W, F eat in or carry out

Fishers Post 470 Pat Menc
9091 E 126th St Treasure Hunt Fri 8pm \$25K
Fishers, in 46038 Trivia Wed 6pm
317-842-5944 Breakfast 1st & 3rd Sun 8-11
M 3-10p, Tu-Su 12-10pm or when empty.

Restaurant Breakfast 1st&3rd Sun 9-12, Food 12-8 Tu, 5-9 W, 12-9 Th, F 3-8 Sa, 12-5 Su

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

VFW Posts

Carmel Post 10003 Darin Bibeau
12863 Old Meridian St
Carmel, In 46032 Breakfast 2 & 4 Sat 8-11
317-846-0917 Thurs Treasure Hunt 7pm
Su-Sa 11a-11p.

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

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

Non-Profit Veteran Orgs

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

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

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

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

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

Purple Star Schools. Take the Step.

Hamilton County Military Veteran April 26 Find Out About Your VA Benefits & Resources

VETERANS BENEFITS & RESOURCE FAIR ARE YOU CONNECTED?

- Enroll in VA healthcare
- File disability claims
- Toxic exposure screening
- Specialty care services:
 - Mental Health
 - Woman's Health
 - And more!



JOIN US!
Saturday, April 26, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Johnson County Armory
325 Minuteman Way, Franklin, IN 46131

Representatives will be on-site to answer your questions about VA Eligibility & Enrollment, PACT Act, Federal and State VA Benefits, Filing Claims, and MyHealth4Vet. Toxic Exposure Screening will also be available.

www.va.gov/indiana-health-care/ @IndyVAMC

Coffee With a Vet Every Thursday 10am till noon

VETCENTER

Join the Indy Vet Center for "The Weekly Grind"

We are starting a new coffee time open to ALL veterans weekly here at the Vet Center. This is not counselor led or directed in anyway, it is just an open invitation to have some coffee with your community.

Every Thursday from 10am till 12pm (noon)
Located at the Vet Center
6330 West 71st St
Indianapolis, IN 46278
317-423-1680

Christina Owens
Veteran Outreach Program Specialist
Indianapolis Vet Center
317-749-9357- Cell
317-423-1685- direct
317-423-1680- main
6330 W 71st St
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Coffee with a Vet Last Saturday of Every Month

COFFEE With a VETERAN
Last Saturday of Each Month
8:00am-9:00am
Hosted by Clifton Morlan
University Veterans Post 360
A monthly veteran gathering to get to know veterans in your community.
INDY WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP
SCHOOL 7 HOUSE CAFE

5 Action Steps to Help Someone Having Thoughts of Suicide

- ASK**: "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"
- BE THERE**: Listen without judgment and acknowledge their feelings.
- HELP KEEP THEM SAFE**: Reduce their access to lethal items or places.
- HELP THEM CONNECT**: Call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988).
- FOLLOW UP**: Stay in touch to see how they're doing.

nimh.nih.gov/suicidprevention

Activities & Events

QPR Suicide Prevention Training Apr 29



QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION COURSE

April 29, 2025

6:00PM - 8:00PM

This is a **FREE** Course!



Carmel Fire Headquarters
210 Veterans Way
Carmel, IN 46032



Registration Required!

QUESTION. PERSUADE. REFER.

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.



Save a Life Narcan Training Apr 29 In Fishers

You can be a Life-saver!

Learn how to save a life during an opioid overdose with naloxone!

Sign up for a **FREE 30 min. naloxone* (Narcan) training:**



Tues., April 29	Wed., May 21	Wed., May 28
6:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.
Nickel Plate Pavillion Conference room	Nickel Plate Pavillion Conference room	Nickel Plate Pavillion Conference room



* Naloxone is a medicine that safely and rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. No prescription is required and it is available at no cost to you!

Christmas In June Care Package Drive



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

Please help us collect gifts to send care packages to our deployed Hoosier troops for a "Christmas in June". Purchase gifts on the list below and bring them to your local Hamilton County VFW or American Legion Post where they will be collected and brought to the Fishers American Legion Post for wrapping and packaging on May 10 at 5pm. We also need to raise money for shipping costs, so please donate online at <https://donorbox.org/hamilton-county-veterans-corp> or drop off funds at your Legion & VFW where you leave the goods for the care packages. We need the gifts and funds delivered by May 2nd 2025. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

Here are your local Hamilton County VFW & American Legion Post's addresses.
Carmel American Legion Post 155 - 852 West Main St, Carmel, In 46032
Carmel VFW Post 10003 - 12863 Old Meridian St, Carmel, In 46032
Cicero American Legion Post 341 - 50 Washington Ave, Cicero, In
Fishers American Legion Post 470 - 9091 E 126th St, Fishers, In
Noblesville American Legion Post 45 - 273 S 8th St, Noblesville, In 46060
Noblesville VFW Post 6246 - 654 S 9th St, Noblesville, In 46060
Sheridan American Legion Post 67 - 406 E 10th St, Sheridan, In

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

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

NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

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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.

Railbike Season

Forest Park Rail Adventure

Experience the beauty of nature on the historic Nickel Plate rails. The Forest Park Rail Adventure is a 7-mile railbike ride through scenic Northern Hamilton County.

White River Family Cruise

Join us for the White River Family Cruise, a delightful, short rail bike adventure departing Hobbs Station. This family-friendly journey takes you on a charming ride over the tranquil White River and into the heart of Downtown Noblesville. Bike time on this ride is very short at 15-20 minutes plus a 1-hour layover in downtown Noblesville.

Twilight Rail Ride

Take an evening rail bike ride and enjoy the sights and sounds of twilight. Bikes will depart from Hobbs Station in Noblesville for a 7-mile round trip ride.

RAILBIKE SEASON IS NOW OPEN!

ALL ABOARD! NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

Poolwerx opens new retail store in Westfield

Offers pool & spa supplies alongside convenient mobile service

The REPORTER

Poolwerx, a leading provider of pool supplies, service and maintenance, will soon hold the grand opening of its newest retail store in Westfield.

The store officially opened its doors earlier this month, with a ribbon cutting with the Westfield Chamber of Commerce on April 14. The grand opening celebration will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. The store, located at 222 W. 161st St., will provide pool and spa owners in the Westfield, Noblesville and Carmel communities with convenient access to supplies and equipment along with Poolwerx's signature mobile service.

Poolwerx Westfield is owned by Franchise Partner Jessica Thomas, who opened her Poolwerx mobile business in Noblesville last April. Born and raised in Noblesville, she moved back here to raise her family over a decade ago after serving in the United States Coast Guard. She leads a team of pool service professionals who will provide mobile service to clean, maintain, repair, and install equipment for pools, hot tubs, and swim spas across the area.



Photo provided
Franchise Partner Jessica Thomas and her family were joined by Mayor Scott Willis and Chamber of Commerce President Courtney Albright to cut the ribbon on Thomas' new Poolwerx store.

"We're very excited to open our new store in Westfield and better serve pool and spa owners in the community," Thomas said. "Our mobile technicians have the expertise to keep any pool or spa sparkling clean and in top working condition. Our retail store will make it easy for customers to get a free water test, pick up supplies, shop a selection of pool equipment, and get helpful pool advice right in their neighborhood."

The grand opening celebration on April 26 will include a live DJ, entries for giveaways includ-

ing a three-month gym membership to Snap Fitness, a Gridiron speaker cooler and tailgate grill, a wine-tasting, and gift cards. Food and beverages will also be served.

"We invite everyone to stop by and join the fun and see everything our new Poolwerx store has to offer," Thomas said. "Even if you don't have a pool or spa, stop in for a beverage and say hello! Our team can't wait to become your go-to resource for pool and spa care in the Westfield area."

For more information on products, services, or the

grand opening event, visit poolwerx.com/locations/indiana/poolwerx-westfield or call (317) 376-3428.

About Poolwerx

Poolwerx is a leading provider of pool supplies, service, and maintenance with retail stores and mobile service vans operating across multiple countries. With a commitment to providing exceptional customer service and high-quality products, Poolwerx helps pool and spa owners enjoy the benefits of a clean, healthy, and safe pool experience. Find out more at poolwerx.com.

Indiana Members Credit Union named to Newsweek's America's Best Regional Banks & Credit Unions for second year

Submitted

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU), central Indiana's largest credit union, has announced it has been recognized as one of America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions 2025 by *Newsweek* and Plant-A Insights Group for a second year.

"Regional banks and

credit unions are the financial backbone of communities nationwide as they support small businesses, fund local projects and ensure easy access to essential banking services," *Newsweek* Global Editor-in-Chief Nancy Cooper said. "*Newsweek* and market-data research firm Plant-A Insights are proud to introduce 'America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions 2025,' highlighting companies utilizing a community- and customer-centric approach to make a big financial impact in their neighborhoods."

Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group recognized top regional banks and credit unions in the United States by conducting a large-scale study based on the analysis of over 9,000 institutions, more than 70,000 customer



Graphic provided

surveys and millions of social media reviews.

"IMCU is honored to have been named to *Newsweek's* America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions for a second year," IMCU President and CEO John Newett said. "This achievement is a testament

to the dedication of our entire team, and we take great pride in knowing that our commitment to serving our members and communities remains at the heart of everything we do."

[Click here](#) for more information about the recognition.

CELEBRATE A DECADE OF
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SHERIDAN
youth Assistance PROGRAM

GOAL: \$10,000

Let's raise \$10,000 to celebrate 10 years!

Join us at Greeks Pizza in Sheridan to celebrate the decade and say farewell to Lisa Samuels before her retirement this summer!

April 24, 2025
3:30-6:00 PM
Donate here

hopefest
hopebridge 20 Years AFTER CARE

Celebrate World Autism Month together at Hopefest! Join the Hamilton County community as we mark two decades of heart & hope with family-friendly fun.

APRIL 25 4-7 PM 801 Congressional Blvd. Suite 600, Carmel, IN 46032

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Hamilton County Reporter

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Thank you, Hamilton County!

Meeting Notice

The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will have a regular board meeting prior to the already scheduled work session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 22 at the Westfield Washington Schools Administration Center, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B.

ADLER attorneys

136 SOUTH 9TH STREET SUITE 400 NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060 317-773-1974

1010 WEST 8TH STREET SUITE 5 ANDERSON, IN 46016 765-642-2080

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RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE at the Historic Adler Building. Contact Kim Watson at 317-773-1974 for details.

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<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

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

Motorists: stay alert & share roads with farm equipment this spring

The REPORTER

Planting season is quickly approaching for Indiana's 94,000 farmers. With the warm weather and sunshine, Hoosier motorists will also see more large slow-moving farm equipment traveling Indiana's rural roads and highways.

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Police, and Hoosier Ag Today want to encourage motorists to slow down, be alert and be patient on roadways this spring.

"Spring time is incredibly busy for everyone. Hoosiers families will be taking their kids to spring sports, graduations and more, but it's especially busy for our farmers," said Lt. Gov. Beckwith, who also serves as Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "I want to encourage all motorists this spring to slow down, drive safely and share our roads with farmers and their large slow-moving equipment."

In 2022, 11 occupants were involved in crashes with farm equipment in Indiana which resulted in one death, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2022 data from the National Highway Traffic Administration is the latest available.)

"As we get further into

the spring season, we will begin to see more farm machinery using our roadways as farmers begin planting their crops," Indiana State Police Superintendent Anthony Scott said. "Let's make sure we are all giving them the space and patience necessary to get from field to field this season, because our primary goal is the safety of all those who travel our roads and highways."

While the term "farm equipment" encompasses a wide range of vehicles, the most common types motorists will encounter during planting season include sprayers, tractors pulling planters or tillage equipment, and large trucks hauling agricultural products. These vehicles are wide, sometimes taking up most of the road, and often travel at speeds no greater than 25 mph.

The following list includes several safety tips for motorists approaching large farm equipment:

- Farmers will pull over when they are able to let motorists pass, but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so.
- Be patient. Farm equipment is wide, sometimes taking up most of the road.
- Be careful when passing. Do not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure or tunnel.
- Do not try to pass



Reporter photos

slow-moving farm equipment on the left without ensuring that the farmer driving is not planning a left turn. It may appear that the driver is pulling over to allow a vehicle to pass when the farmer is actually preparing to turn. You will drive right into its path, endangering yourself and the farmer.

Additionally:

- Avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road.
- Allow plenty of time to get to a destination, be aware of alternate routes and avoid distractions.

Indiana State Department

of Agriculture Director Don Lamb reminds motorists that farmers work hard to ensure they are being as safe as possible.

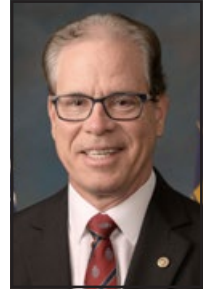
"Getting planting equipment from field to field is the hardest part of planting season for Hoosier farmers," said Lamb, who is also a farmer from Boone County. "Having cars pull over when able is a huge help and farmers appreciate it and we also try to pull over when we can to let people pass. We want everyone to get to their destination safely, whether that is to school, daycare pickup or a farm field."

Click here for a list of safety tips.

Braun announces partnership between Excise Police & State Police to crack down on crime involving 'nuisance bars'

Submitted by Office of Governor Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun announced Thursday a collaboration between the Indiana State Police and the Alcohol & Tobacco Commission's Excise Police to address the issue of public safety around bars that tend to attract crime, drugs, and disturbances, sometimes referred to as "nuisance bars."



Braun

"So-called 'nuisance bars' present a serious public safety threat, becoming hubs for crime, drugs, and violence that make our communities more dangerous and drive down nearby property values," Gov. Braun said. "This partnership between the Indiana Excise Police and the Indiana State Police will make for safer streets and stronger communities."

'Nuisance bars' refers to bars, nightclubs, and other establishments that are permissive of crime and violence. Annual public nuisance violations issued by Indiana State Excise Police

have increased 34 percent since 2019. The violations include instances of shootings, stabbings, and drug related activity.

Indiana law enforcement does an excellent job of keeping Hoosiers safe, and this partnership will bring together the expertise of the Excise Police with the tactical skill, resources, and footprint of

the Indiana State Police to address crime and drug activity centered around these types of establishments.

The Alcohol & Tobacco Commission will be hiring a new Excise Superintendent who will work with the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police and the Indiana Sheriffs' Association to communicate the role of Indiana Excise police to local departments and identify ways to collaborate with local law enforcement.

Over the next four years, the two departments will explore opportunities to collaborate on this shared mission, such as cross-training and sharing resources.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE FELLOWSHIP OFFERING

From what you offer you are to present this food offering to the Lord: the internal organs and all the fat that is connected to them, both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the long lobe of the liver, which you will remove with the kidneys. The priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering, a pleasing aroma. All the fat is the Lord's.

"This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live: You must not eat any fat or any blood."

Leviticus 3:14-17 (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.

Robert D. Fesmire

November 3, 1931 – April 16, 2025

Robert D. Fesmire, 93, Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at River-view Health in Noblesville. He was born on November 3, 1931, to Clayton and Lorean (Kellum) Fesmire in Hortonville, Ind.

Robert proudly served in the United States Army. He was a farmer, a machinist, and a part owner of Overmire Machine and Foundry. Robert was a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge Hinkle 310 and a member of the Noblesville Kiwanis. Robert enjoyed being on a bowling team, was a member of the Bass Club, an avid reader, and helped with the Boy Scouts. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Bonnie Fesmire; daughter, Terri Fesmire; son, Steve (Mary) Fesmire; sister, Phyllis (Charles) Thomas; grandchildren, Josh (Amanda) Fesmire and Jake Fesmire; great-grandchild, Jackson Fesmire; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Vera Jean Carroll.

Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville. Condolences: randallroberts.com



Rosemary Plew

December 23, 1930 – April 14, 2025

Rosemary Plew, 94, Westfield, passed away on Monday, April 14, 2025, at Bloom at Willow in Indianapolis. She was born on December 23, 1930, to Lester and Hilda (Bolstad) Sparks in Barron, Wisconsin, and grew up in Chicago.

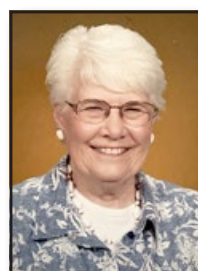
Rosemary married Robert Plew in June 1951. She was a homemaker and Master Gardener. Rosemary was a member of East 91st Street Christian Church. She enjoyed reading and had a passion for gardening.

She is survived by her children, Susan (Brian) Deckert, James Robert (Mary) Plew, and Daniel Plew; grandchildren, Tyler (Lisa) Plew, Jenna (Steve) Hough, Sarah (William Lingle) Plew, James (Shelley Bolor) Plew, and Ellen (Gregg) Husa; great-grandchildren, Roman Plew, Maeve Plew, Perla Plew, and James Plew; sister, Jeanine Farrell; and brother, Robert (Joanna) Sparks.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert C. Plew; and sister, Virginia "Ginny" Henkel.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, 9700 Allisonville Road, Indianapolis.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Navigating the Journey: free event for parents & caregivers at Anderson Museum of Art

Submitted by AMOA

The Anderson Museum of Art (AMOA) invites parents, caregivers, and community members to join for *Navigating the Journey*, an inspiring and interactive evening focused on autism awareness, creativity, and connection.

In the Grand Room Gallery from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 24, this free event features guest speaker Marya Patrice Sherron, MFA, a writer, advocate, and community leader passionately dedicated to uplifting marginalized voices and fostering inclusivity. Her

work has been widely recognized, including her children's books, which are featured in the Indianapolis Airport's Sensory Rooms as a tribute to autistic individuals.

In 2024, she launched KI Productions' Neurodivergent Collection, a robust platform that celebrates and shares the stories of neurodivergent individuals and families. The collection serves as a beacon for education, awareness, and



Sherron

advocacy, driving meaningful change in how neurodiversity is viewed and supported.

In addition to an Autism Awareness Presentation by Sherron, the evening will include a hands-on interactive art activity led by AMOA's own Nick Martin, offering guests a chance to reflect, create, and connect through artistic expression.

This event is part of AMOA's ongoing commitment to using the arts for

holistic health and well-being. Through programs that support emotional, social, and cognitive development, AMOA continues to create welcoming spaces where art inspires healing and connection for people of all ages.

This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged to ensure AMOA can best accommodate all attendees. The first 20 guests to pre-register will receive a signed copy of Marya's book, *What If My Pieces Don't Fit*.

To register or learn more, visit andersonart.org/navigate.

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Contact Information

Email
News@ReadTheReporter.com

Web Address
ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

“I want to test myself” – Allen ready for new challenge at HSE

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

It's been a whirlwind past two days for Bobby Allen, who is now the Hamilton Southeastern boys basketball coach.

Allen had spent seven seasons coaching Guerin Catholic, leading the team to seven winning seasons, four sectional titles and a 2023 Class 3A state runner-up finish. On Tuesday, Allen accepted the coaching job at Southeastern, turning Wednesday into a day of transition.

Speaking to The Reporter on Thursday afternoon, Allen said he “met with my team at Guerin on Wednesday morning and then I was introduced at Hamilton Southeastern right after that. Everything was pretty quick.”

Allen also admitted it was “very hard and very difficult to make this decision.” He took over a Guerin Catholic program that was already successful and kept it at a high standard, compiling a record of 128-56 in addition to all the post-season championships.

“I'm leaving behind some of the best friends and amazing families and an incredible basketball program

that is making this just seem impossible,” said Allen. “But I also feel that the experience there has prepared me to try and implement the same values and hopefully have the same success we had at Guerin.”

At the same time, Allen said taking the HSE coaching position is “a great decision for my family. We live right down the street from Hamilton Southeastern and my kids are in that school district. It's an opportunity for a new challenge.”

“It's one of those things in life that you don't see coming and you're not really seeking out,” said Allen. But he is ready for the opportunity, and is aware of what he called “the reality of how difficult the sectional and the (Hoosier Crossroads) Conference are.”

“I know it will be challenging, but I think I'm up for that challenge,” said Allen. “I want to test myself.”

Allen met with the Royals team right away on Wednesday and had individual meetings with the Southeastern players starting on Thursday.

“We'll get going with limited contact and practices starting next week and hit the ground running,” said Allen.



While Bobby Allen is headed to a new opportunity at Hamilton Southeastern, he is grateful for the time he spent as head coach at Guerin Catholic. Allen is pictured here after the Golden Eagles won the 2024 sectional title in double overtime.

Mike Navarro / File photo

Baseball

Blazers win conference game, Carmel blasts LN in 8 innings

The REPORTER

The University baseball team took care of Muncie Burris 10-0 in a five-inning Pioneer Conference game Thursday at Roundtripper Academy.

The Trailblazers scored four runs in the first inning, which included RBI singles from Beckett Suh and Charlie Ranek. After scoring a third-inning run, University took care of business in the fourth inning with five runs. Cooper Burnett and Ryan Castetter both smacked RBI doubles, then Ranek got the Blazers to 10 runs with a triple that brought in Cooper Cammack and Suh.

Ranek totaled three RBIs, while Burnett finished with two doubles. Cam Rady pitched all five innings, striking out eight against two hits and two walks.

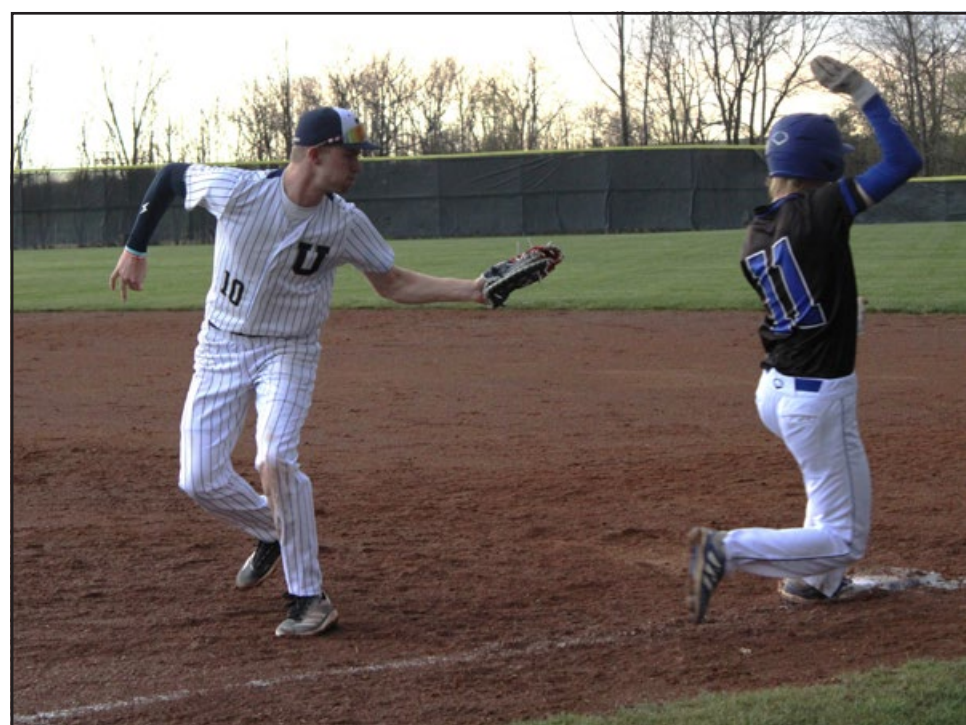
University is 4-5 for the season, but the Trailblazers play a tough schedule as they try to prepare for the state tournament.

“I'm not concerned with wins and losses,” said University coach Chris Estep. “I'm concerned with how we compete and how we play, and that we are able to play the game as fast as our abilities will allow us to play.”

The Trailblazers' next scheduled game is Saturday afternoon against Noblesville at the Miller's Don Dunker Field.

Carmel erupted for seven runs in the eighth inning at Lawrence North on Thursday, giving the Greyhounds a 13-6 victory.

The Greyhounds scored twice in the first inning. Evan Vogt tripled in Gabe Mathison, then scored on Parker Heaney's RBI groundout. The Wildcats scored two in the second inning, but Carmel came back



University's Cooper Cammack makes a tag at first base to get an out during the Trailblazers' Pioneer Conference win over Muncie Burris on Thursday.

Reporter photo by Richie Hall

with two runs in the third, one each from Jay Stein and Mathison.

Lawrence North got a fourth-inning run, and Carmel answered again with a fifth-inning run to lead 5-3. Vogt was brought in by Heaney's center field hit. The Wildcats cut the lead to 5-4 in the bottom of the fifth, but the 'Hounds went up 6-4 in the sixth after Joseph Cunningham singled in Anthony Back.

Lawrence North scored twice in the bottom of the seventh inning, tying the game at 6-6 and sending it to extra innings. Carmel only needed one extra inning, though. Back singled in Heaney for the go-ahead run, Jackson Harris batted in Nate Steele with a center field hit. Stein drove a double into left field to score Back and Cunningham, then Mathison's double scored Harris. Stein got home on Vogt's RBI groundout, and Heaney's left field hit sent Mathison home.

Heaney batted in three

runs, while Mathison totaled two doubles. Nolan Sundahl got the pitching win.

The Greyhounds are 4-4 and play a doubleheader at Louisville Trinity on Saturday.

Westfield picked up a nice Hoosier Crossroads Conference win at Brownsburg Thursday, 10-7.

See Blast . . . Page 12

Tigers take first game over Millers

The REPORTER

A combined no-hitter helped the Fishers baseball team take the first game of a Hoosier Crossroads Conference series with Noblesville on Thursday, winning 4-2 at the Tigers' field.

Fishers scored its first run in the second inning, after Jase Ruggles cracked a center field double to score Trevor Hall. The Tigers added three runs in the fifth inning: Carter Strole got the inning's first run, then Luke Cherry's center field hit brought in Brady Carman and Zander Carnahan.

Noblesville scored both of its runs in the seventh inning. McCoy Fulk got home when Aiden Ramsey drew

a bases-loaded walk, then Tanner Miller scored when Aiden Reynolds drew a bases-loaded walk.

Owen Sanders and Ruggles combined to allow no hits during the game. Sanders pitched six innings for the win, striking out seven, with Ruggles pitching the seventh inning, striking out one and inducing a double play to finish the game.

Joe Glander pitched a complete game for Noblesville, with six strikeouts.

Fishers improved to 3-0 in the conference and 8-1 overall, while Noblesville is 1-2 in HCC play and 5-6 overall. The series continues at 7 p.m. tonight at the Millers' Don Dunker Field.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, April 18

BASEBALL

Brownsburg at Westfield, 6 p.m.
Maconaquah at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.
Zionsville at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.
Fishers at Noblesville, 7 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Hamilton Southeastern at Noblesville, 8 p.m.
Westfield at North Central, 8 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Cardinal Ritter at Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.
Carmel at New Palestine, 6 p.m.
Noblesville at Lawrence North, 6 p.m.

TENNIS

Franklin Central at Hamilton Southeastern, 5:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Noblesville boys, Westfield at Bob Potter Field Events Classic, 5:30 p.m.
at Lawrence North

Westfield at Broncho Sprinters Showcase, 5:45 p.m. at Lafayette Jefferson

University at Park Tudor Small School Showcase, 6 p.m.

Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Westfield at Franklin Central Showcase, 6:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Park Tudor at University, 5 p.m.
Carmel at North Central, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

BASEBALL

Fishers at Greenfield-Central, 10 a.m.
Guerin Catholic at PBR Tournament, 10 a.m. at Morgan Township
Sheridan at Shortridge, 10 a.m.
Bloomington South at Hamilton Southeastern, 11 a.m.
Hamilton Heights at Clinton Prairie, 11 a.m.
Carmel at Louisville Trinity doubleheader, noon
University at Noblesville, 1 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Heritage Christian at Fishers, 10 a.m.
Roncalli at Guerin Catholic, 1 p.m.
Carmel at South Oldham (Ky.), 2 p.m.
Noblesville at Fort Wayne Carroll, TBA

GIRLS LACROSSE

Hamilton Southeastern at Kings (Ohio), 10:30 a.m.
Fishers at Bloomington North, 11 a.m.
Carmel at Olentangy Liberty (Ohio), 11:30 a.m.

GOLF

Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern at Danville Invitational, 8:30 a.m. at Twin Bridges GC
Guerin Catholic at Joe Moehring Invitational, 9 a.m. at Highland Lake GC
Guerin Catholic at Steve McClure Memorial Tournament, 9 a.m. at Southern Dunes GC
Noblesville at Twin Lakes Invitational, 10 a.m. at Tippecanoe Country Club
Carmel, Westfield at Highland Invitational, 10:30 a.m. at Highland Golf & Country Club
Sheridan at Covington Tournament, 1 p.m. at Rivercrest GC
Westfield at Don Dicken Classic, 1:30 p.m. at Stonehenge GC
Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Trojan Classic, 2 p.m. at Hickory Stick GC

SOFTBALL

Hamilton Southeastern at Harrison, 9:30 a.m.
Carmel at Columbus North doubleheader, 10 a.m.
Fishers vs. Rochester, 10 a.m. at Logansport Cathedral at Westfield, 11 a.m.
Noblesville at Bloomington North doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Crown Point, 1 p.m. at Harrison

TENNIS

Westfield at Delta Round Robin, 9 a.m.
Fishers at Homestead Invitational, 10 a.m.
Hamilton Heights at Lebanon, 10 a.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Guerin Catholic at Hamilton Heights Big Orange Meet, 10 a.m.
Hamilton Southeastern Royal Relays (girls), 10 a.m.
Hamilton Southeastern boys at Ben Davis Relays, 11 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Noblesville at Zionsville Invitational
• vs. Warsaw, 9 a.m.
• vs. Lafayette Jefferson, 11 a.m.
• TBD, 12:30 p.m.
• TBD, 1:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Cathedral Irish Quad, 9:30 a.m.
Westfield Tri Match (Franklin Community and Roncalli), 10 a.m.
Franklin Central at Carmel, noon

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

Softball

Huskies win all-county game

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights won an all-county softball game with Sheridan 16-4 in five innings on Thursday.

The Blackhawks scored all four of their runs in the top of the second inning. Lainey Mendenhall singled in Norah Adams for the first run, then Amiyah Doss got home after Maddie Davis drew a bases-loaded walk. Abby Dallas batted in Ali Pickard for the third run, then Mendenhall scored when Adria Jump drew a bases-loaded walk.

The Huskies came back right away, putting up eight runs in the second inning. Melanee Forrester scored Heights' first run on Audrey Cain's RBI ground-out. Lily Cash tripled in Ava Snelson and Kenley Scott, then Heather Crays tied the game with a center field hit to score Cash.

Crays got home after Taya Trospser reached on error, giving the Huskies a 5-4 lead. McKenzie Jackson singled in Trospser, Forrester sent Kamryn Rhoton home with a single, then Jackson scored on a passed ball. Heights led 8-4.

The Huskies added eight more runs in the third inning. Cain led off with a triple and Cash drove her in with a left field hit. Heights loaded the bases, and Rho-



Photos by Dwight Casler

(LEFT) Hamilton Heights' Kamryn Rhoton hit a grand slam in the third inning of the Huskies' win over Sheridan on Thursday. (RIGHT) Sheridan freshman Adria Jump made her first career start as pitcher for the Blackhawks.

ton sent everyone home with a grand slam to center field. Snelson hit an RBI double and later scored on an error, then Cash sent an RBI double into left field.

Cash was 3-for-3 at the plate and threw eight strikeouts in 3.2 innings to get the win. Dallas had two hits.

The Huskies are 5-3 and play Monday at Bishop Chatard. Sheridan is 0-2 and hosts Cardinal Ritter at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Kendall Jordan's seventh-inning home run gave Fishers a walk-off win Thursday, as the Tigers beat Harrison 6-4.

Fishers scored three runs in the third inning. Hailey Kinder doubled in

Azstryd Alexander and Cate Summerfield, then was sent home by Jordan's RBI double. The Raiders tied the game by the fifth inning, but Jordan stepped up with a solo home run in the bottom of the fifth, giving the Tigers a 4-3 lead.

Harrison opened the seventh inning with a homer to tie the game again. In the bottom of the seventh, Alexander was hit by a pitch to lead off and moved to second base on Kinder's sacrifice bunt. That brought up Jordan, and she blasted the first pitch over the center field fence for the win.

Jordan finished the game 3-for-4 at the plate. Kate Murray pitched a complete game, striking out 10.

Fishers is 6-3 and plays at the Logansport Invitational on Saturday. The Tigers take on Rochester at 10 a.m. and Northridge at 11:30 a.m.

Hamilton Southeastern dropped a 12-1, six-inning game to New Palestine on Thursday.

The Royals scored their run in the fifth inning. Haileigh Seitz led off with a double, then scored when Addison Richmond hit a sacrifice fly.

Grace Swedarsky threw six strikeouts in four innings.

Southeastern is 6-4 and plays two games at Harrison Saturday, taking on the host Raiders at 9:30 a.m. and Crown Point at noon.

BLAST

The Shamrocks put up three runs in the first inning. Beck Jordan doubled in Drew Law, then Ian Wilson hit a two-run single to score Lincoln Hoffman and Law.

Westfield followed that with three more runs in the second inning. Anthony Cimini doubled Johnny Ewing home, then scored when Hoffman reached on an error. Jordan batted in Law with a left field hit to give the 'Rocks a 6-0 lead.

The Bulldogs came back

to tie the game at 6-6 by the fourth inning. Cimini put Westfield back in front in the fifth inning with left field hit to score Nick Fero. Hoffman led off the sixth inning with a double, then got home on Wilson's sacrifice fly.

Jordan finished the scoring in the seventh inning by smacking a left field double to bring home Cimini and Caden Lindsey. Cimini went 4-for-4 in the game, while Jordan was 3-for-5 at the plate, totaling four RBIs.

Both Cimini and Jordan hit two doubles.

James Kovacs pitched 3.1 innings for the win, striking out five.

The Shamrocks are 3-0 in the conference and 8-1 overall. Westfield hosts Brownsburg at 6 p.m. tonight to complete the HCC series.

Sheridan held off Western Boone 8-7 to win a Thursday home game.

The Blackhawks began with three runs in the

from Page 11

first inning. Dayne Voegel singled Braelan Bochner home, then Jack Oland cracked a double to score Voegel. Jacob Hall hit a left field to bring in Oland.

Both teams scored a run in the second inning; Voegel blasted a double to score Bochner and give Sheridan a 4-1 lead. The 'Hawks added two runs in the fourth inning, as Gavin Schwerdtfeger scored on a wild pitch, then Austin Hinshaw got home on Chance Spencer's sacrifice fly.

WeBo erupted for six runs in the fifth inning to take a 7-6 lead. But Sheridan came back in the sixth inning: Caleb Alexander singled in Landon Cook to tie the game, then Bochner scored the go-ahead run when Oland hit a sacrifice fly.

Hall and Bochner also hit doubles. Starting pitcher Voegel threw nine strikeouts in 4.2 innings, while Bochner got the win in relief, allowing one hit in 2.1 innings.

The Blackhawks are 2-4 and play Saturday morning at Shortridge.

Hamilton Southeastern dropped a 5-1 HCC game at Zionsville Thursday.

The Eagles scored their first run in the bottom of the second inning. The Royals got a run in the top of the fourth when Ty Earlewine got home on an error. But Zionsville took the lead in the bottom of the fourth with an RBI single and stayed in front from there.

Trey McManama hit two doubles.

Southeastern is 0-3 in HCC play and 4-6 overall. The Royals host Zionsville tonight to finish the conference series.

Hoosier Weather Daddy?

PaulPoteet.com
ReadTheReporter.com

(weather permitting) Upcoming Broadcasts

Fri April 18 - Baseball
5:45 pm Zionsville vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Baseball | Southeastern Sports Network
7:00 pm **Fishers** vs **Noblesville** | Hoosier Crossroads Baseball | HCTV Sports

Sat April 19 - Baseball & Girls Lacrosse
1:00 pm **University** vs **Noblesville** | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports
1:20 pm Penn vs Chatard | Girls Lacrosse | Indiana SRN

Mon April 21 - Baseball
6:30 pm Rossville vs **Noblesville** | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Tues April 22 - Softball and Girls Lacrosse
6:00 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | Hoosier Crossroads Softball | HCTV Sports
7:15 pm **Noblesville** vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Girls Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports
7:20 pm Bloomington vs Roncalli | Girls Lacrosse | Indiana SRN

Wed April 23 - College Baseball and Boys Lacrosse
5:50 pm Ball State vs Indiana University | College D1 Baseball | Indiana SRN
7:55 pm Brownsburg vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Boys Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports

Thurs April 24 - Softball, Baseball & Girls Lacrosse
5:15 pm Lawrence North vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Softball | Southeastern Sports
6:30 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | Hoosier Crossroads Baseball | HCTV Sports
7:20 pm **Hamilton Southeastern** vs **Guerin** | Girls Lacrosse | Indiana SRN

Available on the Web www.HCTV1.com

On your Roku TV or Roku Device
Search for HCTV1

www.HCTV2.com

On your Amazon Fire TV or Device
Search for Hamilton County TV

Motorsports



Photo provided by IMS

INDYCAR updates replacement driver status for Indy 500

Submitted by IMS

INDYCAR has informed race teams of a procedural update involving eligible drivers ahead of the 109th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. During a recent Team Manager call, teams were made aware that a replacement driver would be eligible with the following parameters:

- A replacement driver will only be considered if the primary (entered) driver also is participating in another marquee event with the driver's principal racing series on Indianapolis 500 Race Day.

- The INDYCAR-approved veteran replacement driver is eligible for and passes the Indianapolis Motor Speedway refresher program in the entry during the first day of Indianapolis 500 practice.

- Additional tires for the refresher program will not be allowed for the Indianapolis 500 entry. The tire allotment for each entrant is 32 sets for the event. Any tires used for the refresher program will be taken from the allotted tires to that entry.

- During the refresher program, minimal setup changes will be allowed.

- After the replacement driver completes the required phases of the refresher program, additional laps during the session will not

be permitted.

- Once INDYCAR is notified that a team will use its replacement driver for the Indianapolis 500, the entry's qualified position is forfeited, and the car will start at the rear of the starting lineup and ordered according to Rule 8.1.8.6.

- A qualified driver, who is officially replaced by the team, may return and compete with that entry provided the replacement driver has not participated in a session other than the refresher program. The car's starting position will remain at the rear of the field with the starting lineup ordered according to Rule 8.1.8.6.

The 2025 INDYCAR rulebook will be updated to reflect these changes.

The 109th Indianapolis 500, round five of the 2025 NTT INDYCAR SERIES championship, is Sunday, May 25. Coverage begins at 10 a.m. on FOX, FOX Deportes and the FOX Sports app. The award-winning INDYCAR Radio Network is available on SiriusXM channel 218 and the INDYCAR App powered by NTT DATA.

The next NTT INDYCAR SERIES race is the Children's of Alabama Indy Grand Prix on Sunday, May 4. Coverage begins at 1:30 p.m. on FOX, the FOX Sports app and the INDYCAR Radio Network.

NTT INDYCAR SERIES teams to participate in Indy 500 Open Test April 23 & 24 at IMS

Submitted by IMS

In preparation for the 109th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge, NTT INDYCAR SERIES drivers will participate in an Open Test from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23 and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 24 on the famed 2.5-mile oval at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

On Wednesday, veterans will take to the oval from 10:05 a.m. to noon, with Rookie Orientation Program and refresher tests from noon to 2 p.m. and all participants on track from 2 to 6 p.m. All cars are scheduled to be on track from 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday for a "high boost" session –

with increased engine boost levels available during a session similar to "Fast Friday" during the Month of May – and from 2 to 5 p.m. for further testing.

The Southeast Vista grandstands and the Turn 2 Viewing Mounds will be open for public viewing during the test. Due to the IMS Museum's recent re-opening, guests will park across 16th Street in Lot 3P and will enter through Gate 3. Guests with an ADA parking placard will park in the Front Museum Lot and sit in South Terrace East. Security will be on site to assist fans with crossing 16th Street. Concessions and merchandise will be available for purchase.

Legendary NFL tight end, FOX NFL analyst Rob Gronkowski named Grand Marshal of Indy 500 Coors Light Snake Pit

Submitted by IMS

Four-time Super Bowl champion and FOX NFL studio analyst Rob Gronkowski, regarded as one of the NFL's greatest tight ends of all time, will make his debut at the Racing Capital of the World as grand marshal of the Indy 500 Coors Light Snake Pit on Sunday, May 25 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

As a studio analyst for FOX Sports, Gronkowski contributes to both "FOX NFL Sunday" and "FOX NFL Kickoff" during the NFL season. Gronkowski had two stints in the NFL, beginning with the New England Patriots from 2010-18. He won three Super Bowls, was named to five Pro Bowls and four first-team All-Pro teams and won the NFL Comeback Player of the Year during his nine years with the Patriots.

"I can't wait for this year's Indianapolis 500 on FOX," Gronkowski said. "Not only do I get to attend my first-ever Indy 500, I'll do it in style as the grand marshal of the legendary Indy 500 Coors Light Snake

Pit. This is one of the coolest combinations of sports and music out there and in the ultimate venue. I'm ready to get the party started and celebrate the biggest race in the world."

After a brief retirement in 2019, Gronkowski returned to the NFL and spent two seasons in Tampa Bay with his former quarterback, Tom Brady. Gronkowski won his fourth Super Bowl in 2021 with the Buccaneers. Before the end of his NFL tenure, he was named to the NFL 2010s All-Decade Team and the NFL 100th Anniversary All-Time Team. He officially retired in 2022 after an 11-year career, ending with 92 touchdowns, 621 receptions and more than 9,200 yards.

Off the field, Gronkowski works with the community through the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation. He focuses on inspiring youth to reach their maximum potential through sports, education, community and fitness.

As part of the Indy 500 Coors Light Snake Pit, known as one of the most unique parties on the glob-



Graphic courtesy IMS

al EDM music scene, dance producer Illenium will headline a stellar lineup of global electronic music artists, including Sammy Virji, Two Friends, Kayzo and Oliver Heldens. Performances begin early in the morning in the infield adjacent to Turn 3 of the IMS oval.

General admission and VIP wristbands for the Snake Pit are on sale for \$75 and \$190 at ims.com. VIP amenities will include access to a raised viewing platform located beside the stage, a private cash bar and private air-conditioned restrooms.

All Snake Pit ticketholders must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid Indy 500 general admission or reserved seat ticket. Ticket

holders should be prepared to show proper identification to enter the concert.

Packages that include Race Day general admission tickets are available. A package featuring general admission to the Indianapolis 500 and Snake Pit is \$125, while a race general admission and Snake Pit VIP package is \$240.

FOX's live coverage of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge starts at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 25.

Visit ims.com to purchase tickets for the 109th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 25 and for more information on the complete Month of May schedule at IMS.



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

Please help us collect gifts to send care packages to our deployed Hoosier troops for a "Christmas in June". Purchase gifts on the list below and bring them to your local Hamilton County VFW or American Legion Post where they will be collected and brought to the Fishers American Legion Post for wrapping and packaging on May 10 at 5pm. We also need to raise money for shipping costs, so please donate online at <https://donorbox.org/hamilton-county-veterans-corp> or drop off funds at your Legion & VFW where you leave the goods for the care packages. We need the gifts and funds delivered by May 2nd 2025. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

Here are your local Hamilton County VFW & American Legion Post's addresses.

Carmel American Legion Post 155 - 852 West Main St, Carmel, In 46032

Carmel VFW Post 10003 - 12863 Old Meridian ST, Carmel, In 46032

Cicero American Legion Post 341 - 50 Washington Ave, Cicero, In

Fishers American Legion Post 470 - 9091 E 126th St, Fishers, In

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

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

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

Care Package Gifts Needed for Our Deployed Troops

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

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

Lynn at treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com

Tracy at auxiliarypost470@gmail.com

SNYDER STRATEGY

317-345-3960 **WandaLyons.com**